

# Department of Correction Announces New Appointments

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J. David Donahue,  
Commissioner

Indianapolis, Indiana - (May 24, 2006) - Commissioner J. David Donahue announced today that he has made three superintendent appointments, and filled a new Director position, in order to enhance the management and programming of Department of Correction facilities. Mr. Michael Dempsey has been appointed Superintendent of the Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility in Madison County; Mr. Chris Meloy has been appointed Superintendent of Indiana Women's Prison in Marion County; Ms. Wendy Knight has been appointed Superintendent of the Plainfield Correctional Facility and the Reception Diagnostic Center in Hendricks County; and Ms. Dana Blank has been assigned to fill a new Director of Female Programming position at the Department's Central Office.

"I am pleased to make these new staff appointments to improve the Department of Correction's management, processes and programming," said Commissioner J. David Donahue. "I am confident that Dempsey, Meloy, Blank and Knight have the background, expertise and innovative ideas to improve correctional services provided by the Department of Correction."

Mr. Michael Dempsey will assume the position of Superintendent of the Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility effective June 5, 2006. Mr. Dempsey will join the Department from the Kansas Department of Corrections where he has served as Superintendent at a maximum security Juvenile Correctional Complex in Topeka, Kansas. He began his career as a correctional officer in 1985 and has held several key roles in corrections including correctional supervisor, training officer and Assistant Superintendent at a 2000-bed adult male maximum correctional facility. Michael's experience in managing the 270-bed Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex will be instrumental in the implementation of new programming techniques, policy and planning.

Mr. Chris Meloy will assume the position of Superintendent at the Indiana Women's Prison effective June 5, 2006. Superintendent Meloy has served in the Department for 28 years, during which has been highlighted by the excellent way he led staff to meet and exceed numerous professional standards that

set the benchmark for adult correctional facility operations and programming.

Ms. Dana Blank will assume the position of Director of Female Programming at Central Office effective June 12, 2006. Director Blank has served in the Department for 38 years and has been at the forefront of female offender programming needs, receiving state and national recognition for her delivery of offender education and Re-entry programming.

Ms. Wendy Knight will assume the position of Superintendent of the Plainfield Correctional Facility and the Reception Diagnostic Center effective June 12, 2006. Superintendent Wendy Knight has served with the Department since 1993, and most recently served as acting Superintendent of the Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility, and the Assistant Superintendent of Operations at the Reception Diagnostic Center. Superintendent Knight has worked diligently to promote DOC policies and procedure.

### **About The Department of Correction**

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.